



# MEMORANDUM

Department of Natural Resources

STATE OF ALASKA  
Office of Habitat Management  
and Permitting

TO: Eric Taylor  
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DATE: December 14, 2007

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FROM: Kerry Howard, Executive Director *KH*  
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Office of Habitat Management & Permitting  
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SUBJECT: 2030 Let's Get  
Moving

The Office of Habitat Management and Permitting appreciates the opportunity to review the *Draft - 2030 Let's Get Moving* planning document. This plan provides the long-range vision, policies and objectives that will guide Alaska's transportation development during the next 20 years.

We appreciate the plan's explicit recognition that transportation infrastructure and operations must avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate impacts on fish and wildlife (Policy 11). However, as you know, there is a backlog of culverts within the highway infrastructure that provide inadequate fish passage. Under our 2002 "Safe Passage" MOA, we have agreed to ensure safe fish passage when capitol improvement and maintenance projects occur. Due to limited funding for maintenance operations, it has generally been our policy to limit remedial correction for deficient culverts to new federally-funded projects. Unfortunately, that policy sometimes is thwarted when the STIP planning process identifies projects with set budgets and scopes before resource issues such as this are addressed.

We encourage ADOT&PF to develop a planning process that includes early resource agency coordination and to establish and budget projects under the STIP that address resource and fish passage concerns up front.

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